

CLAIMS

1. Plant (10) for the continuous packing of food products (11) in modified atmosphere, comprising a machine (12) for continuous packing in modified atmosphere of food products and a conveyor (13) for continuous sequential feeding of food products to the machine, characterized in that at the entrance of the machine (12) means (21) are present that temporarily submit a product fed by the conveyor (13) to vacuum before it is packed in modified atmosphere in the machine.
2. Plant according to claim 1, characterized in that said means (21) comprise at least a bell (22) connected to means (23) for the suction of air from inside it and for the input of modified atmosphere, the bell being supported by movement means (24, 26) for its synchronous movement along a transport section of the conveyor near the entrance of the packing machine to enclose in said section a product under it and submit it to said vacuum and to said modified atmosphere.
3. Plant according to claim 2, characterized in that the movement means comprise a carousel (24) transporting the bell (22) along a closed section that comprises said transport section of the conveyor and means (26, 28, 29) of controlled lowering of the bell onto the conveyor.
4. Plant according to claim 1, characterized in that the controlled lowering means comprise a support (26) of the bell that can be vertically lowered against the action of the elastic means (27) keeping the bell in a raised position and actuator means (28, 29) positioned along said

transport section to push the bell towards the conveyor against the action of said elastic means.

5. Plant according to claim 4, characterized in that the actuator means comprise a lowering cam yoke (28) of said support of the bell.

6. Plant according to claim 2, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of bells (22) to act simultaneously on several products moved sequentially along said transport section.

10 7. Plant according to claim 2, characterized in that the suction and input means (23) are supported by the carousel (24) to be moved together with the bell.

15 8. Plant according to claim 1, characterized in that the continuous packing machine (12) in modified atmosphere is the type comprising a roll of plastic film (14) and means that unroll, conform into a tube and weld the film to create packs sequentially around products fed to it.

20 9. Device for temporarily submitting in sequence food products that flow sequentially on a continuous conveyor (13) to vacuum and to a modified atmosphere, comprising at least a bell (22) connected to means (23) for the suction of air from inside it and means for the input of modified atmosphere into it, the bell being supported by movement means (24, 26) for its synchronous movement along a 25 transport section of the conveyor to enclose a product under it in said section and submit it to said vacuum and to said modified atmosphere.

10. Device according to claim 9, characterized in that the movement means comprise a carousel (24) for transporting

the bell along a closed section that comprises said transport section of the conveyor and means (26, 28) for controlled lowering of the bell onto the conveyor.

11. Device according to claim 9, characterized in that the controlled lowering means comprise a support (26) of the bell that can be lowered vertically against the action of the elastic means (27) for keeping the bell in a raised position and actuator means (28) placed along said transport section to push the bell towards the conveyor
10 against the action of said elastic means.

12. Device according to claim 11, characterized in that the actuator means comprise a cam yoke (28) for lowering said support of the bell.

13. Device according to claim 9, characterized in that it
15 comprises a plurality of bells to act simultaneously on several products moved sequentially along said transport section.

14. Device according to claim 10, characterized in that the suction and input means (23) are supported by the carousel
20 to be moved together with the bell.

15. Device according to claim 14, characterized in that the suction and input means comprise a pump (23) for each bell.

16. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that it
25 comprises counter-bells (22b) connected to means for suction of air from inside them and which are mobile, to be positioned in front of the bells (22) and in contact with the other face of the transport surface of the conveyor, in the sense that vacuum is created that balances the action of vacuum of the bells (22) on the conveyor.